

# NAGARJUNA'S *Letter to a Friend*

WITH COMMENTARY BY KANGYUR RINPOCHE

LETTER TO A FRIEND

by Nagarjuna • The Root Text

THE NECTAR-LIKE WORDS OF THE TEACHER

by Longchen Yeshe Dorje, Kangyur Rinpoche • The Commentary

Translated by the Padmakara Translation Group



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## Foreword

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THE GREAT INDIAN MASTER Arya Nagarjuna was remarkable for his ability to condense the whole of the Buddha's teachings into comprehensive works without in any way diluting them. As predicted by Shakyamuni Buddha himself, he is especially noted for having expounded the profound meanings of the doctrine.

The work presented in this book is a letter that he wrote to his friend and student King Dechö Zangpo (as he is known in Tibetan), and as such it provides a frank yet subtly pointed exposition of the entire Buddhist path, from the basic foundations of discipline to the profundities of the Mahayana view. It is addressed to anyone, whether an ordained monk or nun or a lay person, who sincerely wishes to practice the Buddha's teaching as a means to become free from samsara.

If Nagarjuna's approach in his *Letter to a Friend* sometimes does not appear to entertain us, we should understand that he is, in a clear and unadorned manner, showing us the path to liberation, not writing a novel. His aim is not to seek fame as a best-selling author, but to benefit his friend and anyone else willing to respond to the honest advice he gives.

I am happy that Nagarjuna's message, complemented by Kangyur Rinpoche's commentary, is being made available for English readers seeking an authentic spiritual path.

Jigme Khyentse  
Dordogne, 2005